

National Town Meeting

PRESS RELEASE

November 15, 1974

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE CIA

At 10:30 Wednesday morning, November 20th, the National Town Meeting convenes in the Eisenhower Theatre of the Kennedy Center for a program on "The CIA and the Congress." Leading the discussion will be Senator James Abourezk (D.-S.D.), Washington Post columnist Tom Braden, and the former Deputy Director of the CIA's Office of Political Research, Harold Ford. Harrison E. Salisbury, Pulitzer-prize winning editor of the New York Times, will serve as the meeting's moderator. After brief initial presentations, the principal speakers will field questions from members of the audience.

Senator Abourezk is a leading proponent of Congressional initiatives to place limits on CIA secret operations overseas. Last October, the Senator supported an amendment to the foreign aid bill directing the Agency to halt all covert activities not related to intelligence gathering. Although the bill was defeated, it marked the first time that either House of Congress had debated and voted on this issue.

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Tom Braden who headed up the CIA's International Organizations Division from 1950 to 1954 when it was responsible for subsidizing private organizations, is skeptical of recent efforts to cut back on the Agency's authority to engage in covert operations.

Dr. Ford is a twenty-two year veteran of the CIA who left the agency last June to become a Research Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center here in Washington. He also serves as director of the newly formed Institute for the Study of Ethics and International Affairs at Georgetown University.

National Town Meetings are held weekly, alternating between the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and communities around the country. The programs are carried by public television stations nationwide and also can be heard on public radio. The meetings are made possible by a grant from the Mobil Oil Corporation and are open to the public free to charge.

~~Abourezk~~, James
P-BRADEN, Tom
FORD, HAROLD
P-Salisbury, HARRISON
E.

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Congress
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